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books for children

books for children no. 9

a list of 100 noteworthy children's books published in the United States during 1992

Edited by **MARGARET N. COUGHLAN** **CHILDREN'S LITERATURE CENTER**

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books for children

Books for Children has been published by the Children's Literature Center in the Library of Congress since 1964 for parents, teachers, librarians, publishers, and those interested in the best of this country's current children's literature.

HOW SELECTIONS ARE MADE

The editor and an advisory committee of children's book specialists meet on an average of once a month during the year to examine newly published titles, well over five thousand hardcover and paperbound books in 1992, to choose one hundred titles they consider to be the most noteworthy.

Selection criteria have remained constant over the years. Quality of plot, theme, style, pace, characterization, and setting is essential for satisfying stories. In addition, for the picture-story book, the art—and its harmony with the text—is vital. For nonfiction, accuracy, organization, timeliness, clarity of presentation, and quality of writing and illustration need to be evaluated.

WHAT IS SELECTED AND FOR WHOM

The books selected run the gamut from rhymes, concepts, and picture-stories to adventure, fantasy, natural history, biography, and science. Books are selected for readers from the toddler stage to the teenage years. Some are to be read aloud; some are for instruction; and some are for fun. Some are to be borrowed from a school or public library and others will be bought as gifts. All were chosen with the intent of stimulating the imaginations of children and adults alike.

up to 5

THE BIG ALFIE OUT OF DOORS STORYBOOK

[By] Shirley Hughes. *New York: Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books* [1992] *unp.* $17.00 ISBN 0-688-11428-8

Special events in young Alfie's busy life are highlighted in delightfully pictured stories and poems.

CLAP YOUR HANDS

[By] Lorinda Bryan Cauley. *New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons* [1992] *unp.* $14.95 ISBN 0-399-22118-2

A variety of simple movements are introduced here in catchy rhyme and vigorous pictures.

FIDDLE-I-FEE: A FARMYARD SONG FOR THE VERY YOUNG

Adapted and illustrated by Melissa Sweet. *Boston: Little, Brown* [1992] *unp.* (*Joy Street books*) $14.95 ISBN 0-316-82516-6

Playful illustrations bring fresh charm to a well-loved folk song.

FOUR FIERCE KITTENS

[By] Joyce Dunbar. *Pictures by* Jakki Wood. *New York: Scholastic* [1991] *unp.* $13.95 ISBN 0-590-45535-4

An appealing story for the youngest about four kittens in pursuit of excitement while their mother sleeps.

THE HOUSE THAT JACK BUILT

Pictures by Jenny Stow. *New York: Dial Books for Young Readers* [1992] *unp.* $14.00 ISBN 0-8037-1090-9

A familiar cumulative tale is placed in a vivid Caribbean setting.

2

COUNT!

|By| Denise Fleming. *New York: Henry Holt* |1992| *unp.* $14.95
ISBN 0-8050-1595-7

A well-designed counting book features a menagerie of exuberant animals, among them gnus, toucans, kangaroos, and worms, representing numbers.

DADDIES

|By| Adele Aron Greenspun. *New York: Philomel Books* |1991| *unp.* $15.95 ISBN 0-399-22259-6

A photographic essay highlights special relationships between fathers and their children.

FARMER DUCK

By Martin Waddell. *Illustrated by* Helen Oxenbury. *Cambridge, Mass.: Candlewick Press* |1992| *unp.* $15.95 ISBN 1-56402-009-6

How a hardworking, overly conscientious duck, slave to a lazy farmer, is rescued by resourceful animal friends is shown in comic pictures and tongue-in-cheek text.

HUNKY DORY ATE IT

By Katie Evans. *Pictures by* Janet Morgan Stoeke. *New York: Dutton Children's Books* |1992| *unp.* $13.50 ISBN 0-525-44847-0

Bold, uncluttered pictures and simple rhyming text recount the fate of a greedy puppy, Hunky Dory, who eats everything in sight, from cake to steak.

A MOTHER FOR CHOCO

|By| Keiko Kasza. *New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons* |1992| *unp.* $14.95
ISBN 0-399-21841-6

For the youngest, a beguiling picture story about a lonesome little bird and his search for a mother.

THE OLD BLACK FLY

|By| Jim Aylesworth. *Illustrations by* Stephen Gammell. *New York: Henry Holt* |1992| *unp.* $15.95 ISBN 0-8050-1401-2

Catchy verses and appropriately gross illustrations follow a mean old black fly through the alphabet until it gets its just dessert—SWAT!

OWL BABIES

Written by Martin Waddell. *Illustrated by* Patrick Benson. *Cambridge, Mass.: Candlewick Press* [1992] *unp.* $14.95 ISBN 1-56402-101-7

Expressive ink-and-watercolor illustrations contribute to the suspense of a tale in which three baby owls wake up to find their mother missing.

RING-A-RING O' ROSES & A DING, DONG, BELL: A BOOK OF NURSERY RHYMES

Selected and illustrated by Alan Marks. [*Saxonville, Mass.*] *Picture Book Studio* [1991] *96 p.* $19.95 ISBN 0-88708-187-8

A collection of traditional nursery rhymes, appealingly illustrated.

THE THREE LITTLE PIGS AND THE BIG BAD WOLF

Written and illustrated by Glen Rounds. *New York: Holiday House* [1992] *unp.* $15.95 ISBN 0-8234-0923-6

Engagingly comic drawings accompany this familiar, well-loved tale.

THE THREE LITTLE PIGS AND OTHER FAVORITE NURSERY STORIES

Illustrated by Charlotte Voake. *Cambridge, Mass.: Candlewick Press* [1992, c1991] *93 p.* $18.95 ISBN 1-56402-118-1

An attractive collection of old favorites.

TREASURE NAP

[By] Juanita Havill. *Illustrated by* Elivia Savadier. *Boston: Houghton Mifflin,* 1992. *30 p.* $13.95 ISBN 0-395-57817-5

A naptime story, colorfully pictured, in which Alicia's mother describes for her an experience her great-grandmother had as a child in Mexico.

SEVEN BLIND MICE

[By] Ed Young. *New York: Philomel Books* [1992] *unp.* $16.95
ISBN 0-399-22261-8

A dramatically pictured variant of the Indian fable "The Blind Men and the Elephant" shows seven blind mice going out, one by one, to investigate the strange something by the pond.

SHAPE SPACE

[By] Cathryn Falwell. *New York: Clarion Books* [1992] *unp.* (A *Houghton Mifflin imprint*) $13.95 ISBN 0-395-61305-1

Bright colors and inventive design introduce a number of geometric shapes through the dances of a little girl.

SHORTCUT

[By] Donald Crews. *New York: Greenwillow Books* [1992] *unp.* $14.00
ISBN 0-688-06436-1

Spare text and striking pictures tell of the frightening adventure of a group of children who take a forbidden shortcut down a railroad track.

WOODY'S 20 GROW BIG SONGS

[By] Woody Guthrie, *with* Marjorie Mazia Guthrie. *Pictures by* Woody Guthrie. [*New York*]: *HarperCollins* [1992] *unp.* $16.00
ISBN 0-06-020282-3

A reproduction of a long lost, unpublished songbook for young children, with musical arrangements.

YOU SILLY GOOSE

By Ellen Stoll Walsh. *San Diego: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich* [1992] *unp.* $13.95 ISBN 0-15-299865-9

Brightly colored collage and economical text show what transpires when a goose mistakes a mouse for a fox.

5 to 7

AUNT EATER'S MYSTERY VACATION

[By] Doug Cushman. [New York] HarperCollins [1992] 64 p. (An I-can-read book) $13.00 ISBN 0-06-020513-X

Tongue-in-cheek pictures add to the humor of the matter-of-fact text that finds mystery- loving Aunt Eater taking on several baffling cases while vacationing at the Hotel Bathwater.

AUNT HARRIET'S UNDERGROUND RAILROAD IN THE SKY

[By] Faith Ringgold. New York: Crown Publishers [1992] unp. $15.00 ISBN 0-517-58767-X

Dramatic paintings with the vitality and force of the author's *Tar Beach* (1991) introduce Harriet Tubman and her role in African-American history.

THE CUT-UPS CRACK UP

[By] James Marshall. [New York] Viking [1992] unp. $14.00 ISBN 0-670-84486-1

The incorrigible Spud and Joe, in another antic adventure, once more lock horns with their old enemy, Principal Lamar I. Spurgle—this time over his brand-new sports car.

DON'T YOU KNOW THERE'S A WAR ON?

[By] James Stevenson. New York: Greenwillow Books [1992] unp. $14.00 ISBN 0-688-11383-4

Life on the American home front during World War II is recreated with humor and affection in story and pictures.

THE DRAGON OF AN ORDINARY FAMILY

By Margaret Mahy. Pictures by Helen Oxenbury. New York: Dial Books for Young Readers [1992] unp. $14.00 ISBN 0-8037-1062-3

In this very funny story Mr. Belsaki decides to prove he is not a fuddy-duddy by bringing home a new pet for his son Orlando—a dragon.

BIG PUMPKIN

[By] Erica Silverman. *Illustrated by* S. D. Schindler. *New York:* Macmillan [1992] *unp.* $14.95 ISBN 0-02-782683-X

Lively text and illustration follow the trials of a witch, a ghost, a vampire, a mummy, and a bat, as they strive to pull a huge pumpkin off the vine in time for Halloween—and pumpkin pie.

CHICKEN SUNDAY

[By] Patricia Polacco. *New York:* Philomel Books [1992] *unp.* $14.95 ISBN 0-399-22133-6

A multi-ethnic city neighborhood, affectionately recreated in vibrant pictures, provides the setting for this story about three children who plan an Easter surprise for Gramma Eula Mae.

THE COWBOY AND THE BLACK-EYED PEA

By Tony Johnston. *Illustrated by* Warren Ludwig. *New York:* G. P. Putnam's Sons [1992] *unp.* $14.95 ISBN 0-399-22330-4

In this takeoff on "The Princess and the Pea," Farethee Well, a beautiful, fabulously rich rancher, devises a plan to find a real cowboy to be her husband.

FIRST TOMATO ISBN 0-8037-1175-1
MOSS PILLOWS ISBN 0-8037-1177-8
THE ISLAND LIGHT ISBN 0-8037-1178-6

[By] Rosemary Wells. *New York:* Dial Books for Young Readers [1992] *unp.* (A Voyage to the Bunny Planet) *Each book,* $12.89

For victims of bad days everywhere, three comforting books with beguiling pictures, the first purportedly based on a dream of Benjamin Franklin's of "a world without wickedness, verdant, mild, and populated by amiable lapins." In these, the troubled protaganists are each rescued from the effects of a bad day by escaping to the Bunny Planet, its Queen Janet, and "the day that should have been."

Also available slipcased, $13 (ISBN 0-8037-1174-3)

THE FORTUNE-TELLERS

By Lloyd Alexander. *Illustrated by* Trina Schart Hyman. *New York:* Dutton Children's Books [1992] *unp.* $15.00 ISBN 0-525-44849-7

Vivid illustrations enhance this highly entertaining tale set in Cameroon of a young carpenter whose visit to a fortune-teller produces astonishing results.

FOX OUTFOXED

By James Marshall. *New York: Dial Books for Young Readers* [1992] 48 p. $11.00 ISBN 0-8037-1036-4

Further escapades of the irrepressible, incorrigible Fox as he tries his utmost not to be "out-foxed." Gloriously antic pictures.

HOPSCOTCH AROUND THE WORLD

[By] Mary D. Lankford. *Illustrated by* Karen Milone. *New York: Morrow Junior Books* [1992] 47 p. $15.00 ISBN 0-688-08410-2

Nineteen variations of an ancient game still played around the world, complete with rules and patterns.

LOOP THE LOOP

By Barbara Dugan. *Pictures by* James Stevenson. *New York: Greenwillow Books* [1992] *unp.* $14.00 ISBN 0-688-09647-6

A rare intergenerational story, both funny and touching, captures the special relationship that exists between wheelchair-bound Mrs. Simpson and her young neighbor Anne, with cheerful watercolor paintings.

MARTHA SPEAKS

[By] Susan Meddaugh. *Boston: Houghton Mifflin,* 1992. *unp.* $13.95 ISBN 0-395-63313-3

In this rib-tickling tale, Martha, the family dog, devours a bowl of alphabet soup with unexpected consequences.

MASAI AND I

By Virginia Kroll. *Illustrations by* Nancy Carpenter. *New York: Four Winds Press* [1992] *unp.* $13.95 ISBN 0-02-751165-0

Wonderfully evocative paintings bring to life a young African-American girl's imaginings about being a Masai in East Africa.

IN THE MONTH OF KISLEV: A STORY FOR HANUKKAH

By Nina Jaffe. *Illustrated by* Louise August. [*New York*]: *Viking* [1992] 30 *p* $15.00 ISBN 0-670-82863-7

In this well-told, vividly illustrated tale set in Poland, an arrogant merchant is taught the meaning of Hanukkah.

LEAP FROG FRIDAY

By Ellen Leroe. *Illustrated by* Dee deRosa. *New York*: *Lodestar Books/ Dutton* [1992] 54 *p*. $12.00 ISBN 0-525-67370-9

An easy-to-read funny story of nine-year-old David who inadvertently turns his older brother into a frog.

THE LIFE AND TIMES OF THE APPLE

[By] Charles Micucci. *New York*: *Orchard Books* [1992] 32 *p*. $13.95 ISBN 0-531-05939-1

The history, cultivation and varieties of the apple are presented in succinct text and finely detailed, full-color illustrations.

MIRETTE ON THE HIGH WIRE

[By] Emily Arnold McCully. *New York*: G.P. *Putnam's Sons* [1992] *unp* $14.95 ISBN 0-399-22130-1

How a young girl restores the lost courage of the once great tightrope-walker, Bellini, is told against a background of nineteenth-century Paris.

THE ORIGIN OF LIFE ON EARTH: AN AFRICAN CREATION MYTH

Retold by David A. Anderson/SANKOFA. *Illustrated by* Kathleen Atkins Wilson. Mt. *Airy, Md.*: *Sights Productions* [1991] *unp* $18.95 ISBN 0-9629978-5-4

Finely detailed paintings in glowing colors complement this creation myth from the Yoruba people of Niger.

ROLLING ROSE

By James Stevenson. *New York: Greenwillow Books* [1992] *unp.* $14.00 ISBN 0-688-10674-0

Buoyant watercolor pictures capture with verve and humor the delight of baby Rose as she leads eighty-four other babies, all in rolling walkers, down the road into the countryside.

SOFIE'S ROLE

Story by Amy Heath. *Pictures by* Sheila Hamanaka. *New York: Four Winds Press* [1992] *unp.* $14.95 ISBN 0-02-743505-9

Joyous pictures and text capture the young narrator's excitement at being allowed to help her parents in the family's bakery at Christmastime.

SUKEY AND THE MERMAID

[By] Robert D. San Souci. *Illustrated by* Brian Pinkney. *New York: Four Winds Press* [1992] *unp.* $14.95 ISBN 0-02-778141-0

Bold illustrations heighten the atmosphere of this African-American tale about a young girl and Mama Jo, the beautiful black mermaid who changes her life forever.

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ALPHA BETA CHOWDER

By Jeanne Steig. *Pictures by* William Steig. [*New York*]: *HarperCollins/Michael di Capua Books* [1992] *unp.* $15.00 ISBN 0-06-205006-0

For each letter of the alphabet, a sophisticated, nonsensical vignette in playful, alliterative verse is accompanied by antic pictures.

THE AMAZING POTATO: A STORY IN WHICH THE INCAS, CONQUISTADORS, MARIE ANTOINETTE, THOMAS JEFFERSON, WARS, FAMINES, IMMIGRANTS, AND FRENCH FRIES ALL PLAY A PART

[By] Milton Meltzer. [*New York*]: *HarperCollins* [1992] *116 p. ill.* $15.00 ISBN 0-06-020806-6

A well-organized, readable history of the potato includes information about its national origin, nutritional make-up, and commercial value.

TALKING LIKE THE RAIN: A FIRST BOOK OF POEMS

Selected by X. J. Kennedy *and* Dorothy M. Kennedy. *Illustrated by* Jane Dyer. *Boston: Little, Brown* [1992] 96 p. $17.95 ISBN 0-316-48889-5

Effective watercolor illustrations accompany 123 traditional and contemporary poems.

THE WIDOW'S BROOM

[By] Chris Van Allsburg. *Boston: Houghton Mifflin,* 1992. *unp.* $17.95 ISBN 0-395-64051-2

In which dramatic pictures and tongue-in-cheek text tell how a witch's discarded broom becomes the boon companion of a widow and what follows thereafter.

WORKING COTTON

Written by Sherley Anne Williams. *Illustrated by* Carole Byard. *San Diego: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich* [1992] *unp.* $14.95 ISBN 0-15-299624-9

Matter-of-fact text and powerful, sweeping paintings convey the harsh realities of a migrant family's day in the fields.

AND THE GREEN GRASS GREW ALL AROUND: FOLK POETRY FROM EVERYONE

[By] Alvin Schwartz. *Illustrations by* Sue Truesdell. [New York]: Harper-Collins [1992] 195 p. $15.00 ISBN 0-06-022757-5

Silly rhymes, songs, and word games collected on playgrounds and street corners offer fun for children and nostalgia for adults.

ATTABOY, SAM!

[By] Lois Lowry. *Illustrated by* Diane De Groat. *Boston: Houghton Mifflin,* 1992. $13.95 ISBN 0-395-61588-7

Tells of the misadventures of Anastasia's preschool brother as he tries to concoct for his mother's birthday present a perfume made up of her favorite smells—including pipe smoke, chicken soup, and yeast.

BARD OF AVON:
THE STORY OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

[By] Diane Stanley *and* Peter Vennema. *Illustrated by* Diane Stanley. *New York: Morrow Junior Books* [1992] *unp.* $15.00 ISBN 0-688-09108-3

Colorful paintings and accurate, succinct text introduce the Elizabethan theater, its acting companies, and the Bard himself.

THE BEASTS OF BETHLEHEM

Verse by X. J. Kennedy. *Drawings by* Michael McCurdy. *New York: Margaret K. McElderry Books* [1992] *30 p.* $13.95 ISBN 0-689-50561-2

Nineteen poems, each describing the reaction of an animal in the stable to the event that took place on the first Christmas. Full-color illustrations.

BUBBLE TROUBLE & OTHER POEMS AND STORIES

Written and illustrated by Margaret Mahy. New York: *Margaret K. McElderry Books* [1992, c1991] *66 p.* $13.95 ISBN 0-689-50557-4

Five riotous, wildly unlikely domestic crises are described with comic gravity, three in verse, two in prose. Great for reading aloud or telling.

THE DARK-THIRTY: SOUTHERN TALES OF THE SUPERNATURAL

[By] Patricia C. McKissack. *Illustrated by* Brian Pinkney. *New York: Alfred A. Knopf* [1992] *122 p.* $15.00 ISBN 0-679-81863-4

Striking illustrations enrich this selection of ghostly, chilling tales told by African Americans at the time of the "dark-thirty," the last half hour before nightfall.

DINAH FOR PRESIDENT

[By] Claudia Mills. *New York: Macmillan* [1992] *126 p.* $12.95 ISBN 0-02-766999-8

A fast-paced story in which redoubtable Dinah of *Dynamite Dinah* (1990) endeavors to make her mark in middle school.

CHILDREN OF THE DUST BOWL: THE TRUE STORY OF THE SCHOOL AT WEEDPATCH CAMP

[By] Jerry Stanley. *Illustrated with photographs.* *New York: Crown Publishers* [1992] 85 *p.* $15.00 ISBN 0-517-58781-5

Eloquent photographs and text tell the now-classic American story of the impoverished families who fled during the Great Depression from blighted farms to California in hope of a better life.

DANCERS

[By] Peggy Roalf. [*New York*]: *Hyperion Books for Children* [1992] 48 *p. ill.* (*Looking at paintings*) *trade* (*paper*) $6.95 ISBN 1-56282-089-3

The history of art is introduced, in this series, by focusing on a theme of interest to young readers. In this volume, paintings of dancers are traced from ancient times to the present. The series includes *Families* (ISBN 1-56282-087-7), *Seascapes*(ISBN 1-56282-095-1) and *Horses* (ISBN 1-56282-307-8).

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DON QUIXOTE AND SANCHO PANZA

Adapted by Margaret Hodges *from* Don Quixote of La Mancha *by* Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra. *Illustrated by* Stephen Marchesi. *New York: Charles Scribner's Sons* [1992] 72 *p.* $16.95 ISBN 0-684-19235-7

A readable, handsomely illustrated adaptation of one of Spain's best-loved classics.

THE ENCHANTED CASTLE

By E. Nesbit. *Illustrated by* Paul O. Zelinsky. *Afterword by* Peter Glassman. *New York: Morrow Junior Books/Books of Wonder* [1992] 292 *p.* $20.00 ISBN 0-688-05435-8

Fresh, evocative illustrations add to the charm of this splendid 1907 classic about four children and the magic they try to control.

GHOST EYE

[By] Marion Dane Bauer. *Illustrated by* Trina Schart Hyman. *New York: Scholastic* [1992] 82 *p.* $12.95 ISBN 0-590-45298-3

The adventures and misadventures of Purrloom Popcorn, the cat with one blue eye and one gold, as he discovers his need for love.

HUMMINGBIRDS: JEWELS IN THE SKY

By Esther Quesada Tyrrell. *Photographs by* Robert A. Tyrrell. *New York: Crown Publishers* [1992] 36 *p.* $14.00 ISBN 0-517-58390-9

Lively text and handsome photographs describe the behavior and physical characterics of various species of hummingbirds.

I SAW ESAU: THE SCHOOLCHILD'S POCKET BOOK

Edited by Iona *and* Peter Opie. *Illustrated by* Maurice Sendak. *Cambridge, Mass.: Candlewick Press* [1992] 160 *p.* $19.95 ISBN 1-56402-046-0

Illustrated with verve and wit, a classic collection of rude, teasing, taunting rhymes often recited by children behind the backs of their elders. First published in 1947 as *I Saw Esau: Traditional Rhymes of Youth*.

KNITWITS

[By] William Taylor. *New York: Scholastic* [1992] 101 *p.* $13.95 ISBN 0-590-45778-0

In this very funny story, Charlie complicates his already chaotic life by making a bet that he can knit a sweater for the baby his mother is expecting.

MEET POSY BATES

By Helen Cresswell. *Illustrated by* Kate Aldous. *New York: Macmillan* [1992] 95 *p.* $12.95 ISBN 0-02-725375-9

More than anything in the world, irrepressible, incorrigible Posy wants a dog, no matter that her mother says no.

THE MOON AND I

[By] Betsy Byars. [*New York*]: *Julian Messner* [1991] 96 *p.* $12.95 ISBN 0-671-74166-7

For this biography, a master storyteller interweaves with deceptive simplicity and humor her encounters with a black snake and incidents from her childhood that help explain how and why she writes her books.

POOR BADGER

[By] K. M. Peyton. *Illustrated by* Mary Lonsdale. [*New York*]: *Delacorte Press* [1990] 101 *p.* $14.00 ISBN 0-385-30561-3

A sympathetic, realistic story about a nine-year-old girl and her efforts to rescue a pony from its abusive owner.

LETTERS FROM RIFKA

[By] Karen Hesse. *New York: Henry Holt* [1992] 148 *p.* $14.95
ISBN 0-8050-1964-2

A vivid piece of historical fiction, in which a twelve-year-old Jewish girl chronicles in letter form her family's flight from Russia and her experiences when she is forced to stay behind in Belgium while they emigrate to America.

LONG ROAD TO GETTYSBURG

[By] Jim Murphy. *New York: Clarion Books* [1992] 116 *p.* (A *Houghton Mifflin imprint*) $15.95 ISBN 0-395-55965-0

Framed by chapters describing the beginning and end of the ceremony at which Lincoln gave his now famous address, is this chronicling of a single Civil War battle by two soldiers, one Confederate, one Union. Enhanced by archival photographs, drawings, engravings, and maps.

THE RIGHTEOUS REVENGE OF ARTEMIS BONNER

[By] Walter Dean Myers. [*New York*]: *HarperCollins* [1992] 140 *p.* $14.00
ISBN 0-06-020844-9

In this rip-roaring, tongue-in-cheek spoof of the Outlaw West, fifteen-year-old Artemis Bonner squares off against Catfish Grimes.

SCULPTURE: BEHIND THE SCENES

[By] Andrew Pekarik. *New York: Hyperion Books for Children* [1992] 60 *p.* $18.95 ISBN 1-56282-294-2

An introduction to sculpture, to form, scale, surface and context, prepared as a companion book to the PBS documentaries, "Behind the Scenes." Also, the author's *Painting: Behind the Scenes* (ISBN 1-56282-296-9).

THE STINKY CHEESE MAN & OTHER FAIRLY STUPID TALES

[By Jon Scieszka. *Illustrated by* Lane Smith] [*New York*]: *Viking* [1992] *unp.* $16.00 ISBN 0-670-84487-X

Ten traditional folktales are spoofed from start to finish in a book that is also a send-up of children's book-making conventions, a hoot at both levels.

STORMSEARCH

[By] Robert Westall. *New York: Farrar, Straus & Giroux* [1992, c1990] 123 *p.* $14.00 ISBN 0-374-37272-1

In this taut, well-told tale, Tim Vaux and his sister Tracey find on the beach an antique model ship that leads them into the past, to an unsolved family mystery.

SUNDIATA: LION KING OF MALI

Story and pictures by David Wisniewski. *New York: Clarion Books* [1992] *unp.* (A *Houghton Mifflin imprint*) $15.95 ISBN 0-395-61302-7

Striking cut-paper illustrations accompany this stirring retelling of an ancient legend about the exploits of the Lion King, who was born unable to walk or speak.

TASMANIAN DEVIL: ON LOCATION

[By] Kathy Darling. *Photographs by* Tara Darling. *New York: Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books* [1992] 40 *p.* $15.00 ISBN 0-688-09726-X

A fascinating, instructive, and humorous look at the physical characteristics, behavior, and eating habits of a mammal as strange in reality as it is in fiction.

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12 and up

AJEEMAH AND HIS SON

By James Berry. [*New York*]: *HarperCollins* [1992, c1991] 83 *p.* (*Villa Perlman books*) $13.00 ISBN 0-06-021043-5

A short, taut novel, set in 1807 at the height of the slave trade, tells of the fate of Ajeemah and his son Atu, who are kidnapped and sold into slavery in Jamaica.

THE ANIMALS: SELECTED POEMS

By Michio Mado. *Decorations by* Mitsumasa Anno. *Translated by* The Empress Michiko of Japan. *New York: Margaret K. McElderry Books* [1992] 47 *p.* $16.95 ISBN 0-689-50574-4

Twenty poems selected and translated by the empress of Japan from the works of a noted Japanese poet sing of animals, birds, insects, the sea, and sleep. Each is accompanied by the original Japanese text. Elegant cut-paper decorations.

WORDS OF STONE

[By] Kevin Henkes. *New York: Greenwillow Books* [1992] 152 *p.* $13.00
ISBN 0-688-11356-7

A finely crafted, richly textured novel about two children who share a bittersweet summer friendship.

YANG THE YOUNGEST AND HIS TERRIBLE EAR

[By] Lensey Namioka. *Illustrated by* Kees de Kiefte. *Boston: Little, Brown* [1992] 134 *p.* (*Joy Street books*) $13.95 ISBN 0-316-59701-5

A funny, sympathetically told story of a tone-deaf nine-year-old Chinese-American boy in a family of gifted muscians who has trouble telling his parents that he would much rather play baseball than perform in the family quartet.

THE BEGGAR'S RIDE

[By] Theresa Nelson. *New York: Orchard Books* [1992] 242 *p.* (*A Richard Jackson book*) $15.95 ISBN 0-531-05896-4

Narrates the experiences of an abused runaway who joins a gang of homeless young people before she finds at last that there are adults who care.

BLUE SKIN OF THE SEA: A NOVEL IN STORIES

[By] Graham Salisbury. *New York: Delacorte Press* [1992] 215 *p.* $15.00
ISBN 0-385-30596-6

Set in Hawaii between 1953 and 1966, the stories, each focused on a significant moment in Sonny Mendoza's life, take him from early childhood to his late teens and the end of high school.

THE COMING OF THE BEAR: A NOVEL

[By] Lensey Namioka. [*New York*]: *HarperCollins* [1992] 230 *p.* $14.00
ISBN 0-06-020288-2

Another in the series of historical stories about Zenta and Matsuo, two masterless samurai, this adventure tells of their plight and torn loyalties when war threatens to erupt between the Ainus, who rescue them from the sea, and a band of Japanese settlers.

GHOST SONG

[By] Susan Price. *New York: Farrar, Straus & Giroux* [1992] 148 *p.* $15.00
ISBN 0-374-32544-8

A powerful, bleak tale of magic, evil, vengeance, and love in which a young man struggles to thwart his destiny. Told in the style and language of an old folktale.

GO HANG A SALAMI! I'M A LASAGNA HOG! AND OTHER PALINDROMES

By Jon Agee. *New York: Farrar, Straus & Giroux* [1991] *unp.* $12.21
ISBN 0-374-33473-0

For those who enjoy words and word games, an assemblage of over sixty palindromes, some easy, some difficult, all guaranteed to tickle the imagination.

GRACE

[By] Jill Paton Walsh. *New York: Farrar, Straus & Giroux* [1992, c1991] 255 *p.* $16.00 ISBN 0-374-32758-0

A dramatic novel, based on the true story of Grace Darling, a lighthouse keeper's daughter, who in September 1838 became a national hero after rowing with her father through tumultuous seas to rescue the survivors of a shipwreck.

THE LEAVING AND OTHER STORIES

[By] Budge Wilson. *New York: Philomel Books* [1990] 207 *p.* $14.95
ISBN 0-399-21878-5

Nine finely crafted short stories, set in Nova Scotia, each describing the experience of a girl as she emerges into adulthood.

LETTERS FROM A SLAVE GIRL: THE STORY OF HARRIET JACOBS

[By] Mary E. Lyons. *New York: Charles Scribner's Sons* [1992] 146 *p.* $13.95 ISBN 0-684-19446-5

Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl (1861), the autobiography of Harriet Jacobs, forms the basis for this account of the harrowing experiences of a slave girl. Skillfully narrated in fictionalized letters.

MISSING MAY

[By] Cynthia Rylant. *New York: Orchard Books* [1992] 98 *p.* (A *Richard Jackson book*) $12.95 ISBN 0-531-05996-0

A moving, compassionate novel in which a young girl and her uncle learn to survive after the death of their beloved Aunt May.

AN INDIAN WINTER

By Russell Freedman. *Paintings and drawings by* Karl Bodmer. *New York*: *Holiday House* [1992] 88 *p*. $21.95 ISBN 0-8234-0930-9

Chronicles the expedition of a nineteenth-century German prince who took his servant and a Swiss artist to the Northwest frontier to document the life of the Mandan Indians. Illustrated with the prince's sketches and the artist's full-color paintings.

JOHN JAMES AUDUBON

[By] Joseph Kastner. *New York*: *Harry N. Abrams* [1992] 92 *p*. (*First impressions*) $19.95 ISBN 0-8109-1918-4

A portrait of the cantankerous French painter whose elegant pictures of America's birds were to become national treasures. Illustrated with reproductions, many in full color. Also this year, *Francisco Goya*, by Ann Waldron (ISBN 0-8109-3368-3).

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THE ORIGINAL FREDDIE ACKERMAN

[By] Hadley Irwin. *New York*: *Margaret K. McElderry Books* [1992] 183 *p*. $14.95. ISBN 0-689-50562-0

Shows with humor how a creative twelve-year-old finally manages, with the help of two elderly aunts, to blend his imaginary identity into his real one.

PICK-UP STICKS

[By] Sarah Ellis. *New York*: *Margaret K. McElderry Books* [1992] 124 *p*. $13.95 ISBN 0-689-50550-7

Told with humor and sensitivity is this story of thirteen-year-old Polly who grows to understand why her independent-minded mother chose to be a single parent.

THE PIGMAN & ME

[By] Paul Zindel. [*New York*]: *A Charlotte Zolotow Book* [1991] 168 *p*. (*A HarperCollins imprint*) $14.00 ISBN 0-06-020857-0

In this comic, occasionally poignant, memoir of his early adolescence, the author tells how he met the man who became his mentor and his model for Mr. Pignati, the "Pigman" of his first young adult novel.

ROSA PARKS: MY STORY

By Rosa Parks. With Jim Haskins. *New York: Dial Books* [1992] 192 p. $17.00 ISBN 0-8037-0673-1

A straightforward, matter-of-fact account of the experiences of the remarkable civil rights activist. Told simply and eloquently.

THIS SAME SKY: A COLLECTION OF POEMS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Selected by Naomi Shihab Nye. *New York: Four Winds Press* [1992] 212 p. $15.95 ISBN 0-02-768440-7

Thoughtful, sometimes poignant, sometimes celebratory, these poems offer windows on life as it is lived in sixty-eight countries. An inviting, handsomely produced volume.

TASTE OF SALT: A STORY OF MODERN HAITI

[By] Frances Temple. *New York: Orchard Books* [1992] 179 p. (A *Richard Jackson book*) $14.95 ISBN 0-531-05459-4

A powerful novel in which the violence, corruption, and poverty that surround two young Haitians, a boy and a girl, both supporters of Father Aristide, is documented as they tell their stories in tandem.

A TWILIGHT STRUGGLE: THE LIFE OF JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY

[By] Barbara Harrison *and* Daniel Terris. *New York: Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books* [1992] 159 p. $18.00 ISBN 0-688-08830-9

The life of this charismatic president is forthrightly portrayed in appealing photographs and well-written text.

WILD MAGIC: THE IMMORTALS

By Tamora Pierce. *New York: Atheneum*, 1992. 260 p. (A *Jean Karl book*) $16.95 ISBN 0-689-31761-1

A fantasy set in the kingdom of Tortall concerns thirteen-year-old Daine, an orphan, whose magical powers draw her into a struggle against terrifying immortals.

SOMEWHERE IN THE DARKNESS

[By] Walter Dean Meyers. *New York: Scholastic* [1992] 168 *p.* $14.95
ISBN 0-590-42411-4

In this taut, emotional novel, fifteen-year-old Jimmy finds himself going off with his father, a man he doesn't know, who has broken out of jail just to try to prove something to him.

SONGS OF THE WILD WEST

Commentary by Alan Axelrod. *Arrangements by* Dan Fox. *New York: Metropolitan Museum of Art/Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers* [1991] 128 *p.* $19.95 ISBN 0-671-74775-4

Celebrates in song and in art the men and women who made up the Old West. Includes music.

YAXLEY'S CAT

[By] Robert Westall. *New York: Scholastic* [1991] 147 *p.* $13.95
ISBN 0-590-45175-8

The forces of good and evil are unleashed as two children and their mother begin to explore the seaside cottage they rented for the holidays.

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